Claims

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- 1. A method of transmitting bursts in a communications network, the method comprising:
- providing data for transmission;

 providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;

 forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and

 forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.
- 10 2. A method according to claim 1, comprising:
 transmitting said first set of bursts via a first channel, and
 transmitting said second set of bursts via a second, different channel.
- 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, comprising:

 providing a first parameter for indicating a timing offset between a first,

 earlier burst comprising at least some of said transmission data and a second, later

 burst comprising further transmission data;

providing a second parameter for indicating a timing offset between a third, earlier burst comprising at least some of said FEC data and a fourth, later burst comprising further FEC data;

forming said first burst including said first timing parameter and forming said third burst including said second timing parameter.

- 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein:
- said at least some of said transmission data comprises some of said transmission data; and

said further transmission data comprises some more of said transmission data.

30 5. A method according to claim 3, wherein: said at least some of said transmission data comprises all of said transmission data; and

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said further transmission data comprises additionally provided transmission data.

- 6. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 5, comprising:

 said at least some of said FEC data comprises some of said FEC data; and said further FEC data comprises some more of said FEC data.
- 7. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 5, comprising:
 said at least some of said FEC data comprises all of said FEC data; and
 said further FEC data comprises some additionally provided FEC data.
- 8. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 7, comprising:
 dividing said first burst between a first set of packets;
 identifying each of said first set of packets with a first identity;
 dividing said third burst between a second set of packets; and
 identifying each of said second set of packets with a second identity.
 - 9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said first and second identities are the same.
 - 10. A method according to claim 8 or 9, comprising: dividing said second burst between a third set of packets; wherein providing said first timing parameter comprises:

specifying a time until a start of a first one of said third set of packets.

11. A method according to any one of claims 8 to 9, comprising:

dividing said fourth burst between a fourth set of packets; wherein providing said second timing parameter comprises:

specifying a time until a start of a first one of said fourth set of packets.

12. A method according to any one of claim 8 to 11, comprising: preparing service information; and including said second identify in said service information.

- 13. A method according to claim 12, comprising:
 including said second identity in a descriptor; and
 including said descriptor in a table forming part of said service information.
- 14. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 13, wherein said transmission data comprises a plurality of data packets, and said method comprises:

placing at least some of data packets in respective ones of a first set of sections.

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- 15. A method according to claim 14, comprising:
 including said first timing parameter in at least one of said first set of sections.
- 15 16. A method according to claim 14 or 15, comprising:

 calculating a timing parameter for each section based on said first timing

 parameter and

 including a respective timing parameter in each of said first set of sections.
- 20 17. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 16, wherein said FEC data comprises a plurality of data packets, and said method comprises:

placing at least some of data packets in respective ones of a second set of sections.

- 25 18. A method according to claim 17, comprising:

 including said second timing parameter in at least one of said second set of sections.
 - 19. A method according to claim 17 or 18, comprising: calculating a timing parameter for each section based on said second timing parameter and

including a respective timing parameter in each one of said second set of sections.

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- 20. A method according to any preceding claim, comprising:

 providing a first parameter for identifying a burst comprising at least some
 of said transmission data;
- providing a second parameter for identifying at least one burst comprising FEC associated with said at least some of said transmission data; forming a first burst including said first identifying parameter and forming a second burst including said second identifying parameter.
- 10 21. A method according to any preceding claims, comprising:

 labelling at least one burst of said first set of bursts with an identifier; and
 labelling at least one burst of said second set of bursts with a corresponding
 identifier.
- 15 22. A method of internet protocol datacasting over a digital broadcasting network according to any preceding claim.
 - 23. A computer program comprising computer program instructions for causing data processing means to perform the method according to any preceding claim.
 - 24. A computer readable medium storing a computer program according to claim 23.
- 25. A system of transmitting bursts in a communications network comprising:

 providing data for transmission;

 providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;

 forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and

 forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.
- 30 26. A network element comprising: means for providing data for transmission; means for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;

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means for forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and means for forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

- 27. A multiprotocol encapsulator comprising:

 an input for providing data for transmission;
 a processor for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;
 a processor for forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data
 and
 a processor for forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.
 - 28. A terminal for receiving bursts from a communications network comprising:
 means for receiving a first set of bursts comprising transmission data and
 means for receiving a second set of bursts comprising forward error
 correction (FEC) data for said transmission data.